

YOUR FREEDOM TO READ

Amendment 1

The First Amendment protects the rights of every American. It defines the freedoms of religion, speech, and press. Most Americans believe that the First Amendment guarantees their most important rights.

Activity 1: VOCABULARY

[Merriam Webster](#)

Pick 4 words to define

banned, challenged, censored, intellectual freedom, McCarthyism, objectionable content, restricted, offensive

Activity 2: EXAMINING BANNED/CHALLENGED BOOKS

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/challengedclassics/reasons banned>

Select 3-4 books on the list and read summaries, find out what the criticisms and objections are for the books. Write several sentences giving a brief summary and the reasons for banning or challenging.

Search i-Bistro and see if the books are in the Lopez collection or other NEISD libraries

Activity 3: LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

<http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/index.cfm>

Visit the web site and read the Library Bill of Rights, what is your opinion and why?

Activity 4: INTERPRETING THE CHALLENGES

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/21stcenturychallenged>

View the graphs and answer the following questions:

Challenges by Year

In what 3 years were the most challenges recorded?

In what year were the least number of books challenged?

Challenges by Reason

What were the top 3 reasons that books were challenged?

What were the 2 lowest reasons?

Challenges by Institution

What group comprises the highest number of challenges?

Who receives the most challenges?

*Comments about **The Giver** (a frequently challenged book)*

In Lois Lowry's Frequently Asked Questions section of her official website, she answers a young reader who explains that a parent at their school wants to ban *The Giver*, and asks for her opinion.

She replied, "I think banning books is a very, very dangerous thing. It takes away an important freedom. Any time there is an attempt to ban a book, you should fight it as hard as you can. It's okay for a parent to say, 'I don't want my child to read this book.' But it is not okay for anyone to try to make that decision for other people. The world portrayed in *The Giver* is a world where choice has been taken away. It is a frightening world. Let's work hard to keep it from truly happening."

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<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/banned/frequentlychallenged/timeline30-years-liberating-literature>

- View this timeline and list any of the books that you have read

